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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

JUL 6 - 1992

In the Matter of)
)
Redevelopment of Spectrum to)
Encourage Innovation in the) ET Docket No. 92-9
Use of New Telecommunications)
Technologies)

To: The Commission

ORIGINAL
FILE

REPLY COMMENTS OF
ROCKY MOUNTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association (RMTA) hereby submits its Reply Comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket No. 92-9, Mimeo No. 38323 (released February 7, 1992) (hereinafter "NPRM"). As demonstrated below, at least one other commentor, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) support an exception such as the "rural exception" proposed by RMTA in this proceeding.

In its June 5, 1992 Comments, RMTA has implored the Commission to adopt an exception to the proposed termination of co-primary status for 2 GHz Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Service stations at the end of an "amortization period" to be designated by the Commission. The proposed exception would allow rural microwave operations to operate on a co-primary status indefinitely, because of the unusual terrain and other circumstances faced by rural carriers which mandate the use of 2 GHz microwave.

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In its June 5, 1992 Comments, the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) supports the proposed reallocation of the 2 GHz band for emerging technologies, since this reallocation will benefit most of its members. However, NTCA likewise supports the idea of a rural exception, in recognition of the unique problems faced in sparsely populated areas of the country. See NTCA Comments at p. 4.

Moreover, NTIA has recommended to the United States Senate that an exception be adopted similar to the one proposed by RMTA. In his June 3, 1992 testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Communications (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation), Thomas J. Sugrue, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, generally supported the reallocation. However, Mr. Sugrue also observed as follows:

In only a few instances, such as for long transmission paths or where very unusual atmospheric conditions prevail, must the fixed frequencies assigned to these federal users be located below 3 GHz to ensure sufficiently reliable transmissions. It would probably be useful, however, for the FCC to make clear its intent to design its reallocation process so as to accommodate these special cases -- where an allocation in a lower band is required -- and propose specific criteria and procedures to achieve that end.

See Statement of Thomas J. Sugrue at p. 6 (copy attached).

Thus, NTIA (and the United States Department of Commerce) recognize the importance of allowing indefinite co-primary status for certain current users of the 2 GHz band, especially where "long transmission paths" or "unusual atmospheric conditions" prevail. These are precisely the kinds of

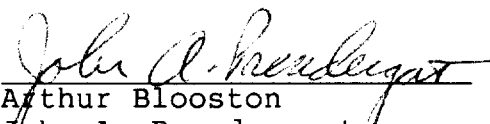
conditions pointed to in RMTA's Comments as requiring a rural exception. This observation by Mr. Sugrue should be given considerable weight, since NTIA is a federal agency with great expertise in radio spectrum matters, and has no particular bias in favor of rural telephone companies or any other entity outside of the Federal Government.

Attachment A hereto provides additional information concerning the long transmission paths required for the Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Service operations of various other telephone companies that are members of RMTA. As shown therein and as discussed in RMTA's Comments, significant path lengths (up to 60 miles) are required in rural areas, particular in the Mountain West.¹

Accordingly, the rural exception proposed in RMTA's Comments should be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
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¹ RMTA would also like to take this opportunity to correct Exhibit 1 of its Comments, which listed the path information for the microwave operations of RMTA member Arizona Telephone Company. The Exhibit inadvertently identified the path lengths in miles, while providing these distances in kilometers. A corrected Exhibit 1 is attached hereto.

ENMR Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
2 GHz Microwave
Toll Facilities

Paths Over 30 Miles

Microwave Path

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u> <u>(MILES)</u>
Anderson Ranch to Gomez	61.51
Gomez to Sheep Peak	52.82
Anderson Ranch to 7-Mile	47.01
Gallinas Peak to Bingham	41.20
Encino to Gallinas Peak	33.87
Sheep Peak to Quitman	32.91

MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

2 GHz Hops
Paths Over 30 Miles

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Rimroad	Glendive Junction	44.4
Rimroad	Van Norman	40.9
Roy	Winnett	36.8
Wall Creek	North Ryegate	35.0
East Glendive	Lambert	33.5
Jordan	Van Norman	31.0
Custer	David Hill	30.5

WESTERN NEW MEXICO TELEPHONE COMPANY
2 GHz Microwave Paths Over 30 Miles

Western New Mexico Telephone Company, a member of the Rocky Mountain Telecommunications Association, utilizes approximately fourteen microwave paths operating on 2 GHz, in hauling telephone traffic from its exchanges in mountainous areas of Western New Mexico. These microwave hops include six paths that are at least 30 miles in length, including:

<u>Path</u>	<u>Distance (Miles)</u>
Mangus Hill to Gray Hill, NM	49.4
Mangus Hill to San Francisco Divide	38.9
Glenwood Brushy to Cliff	36.7
San Francisco Divide to Glenwood Brushy	31.5
Buck Horn to Pinos Altos	30.3

Report of Arizona Telephone Microwave Systems
Effect of vacating the 2GHz microwave Systems

Freq GHz		2	4	6	10.5	11	Low Den Routes	
Path Length	KM/MI	Path Loss (db)	Path Loss (db)	Path Loss (db)	Path Loss (db)	Path Loss (db)	Chl's Equip'd	In Service
Blue Ridge	48.2/ 29.9	132.5	138.6	142.1	146.9	147.3	36	28
Tonto Basin	11.5/ 7.2	120.1	126.1	129.6	134.5	134.9	36	22
Hyder	20.5/ 12.7	125.1	131.1	134.7	139.5	139.9	30	26
Roosevelt	36.6/ 22.8	130.2	136.2	139.7	144.6	145.0	48	36
Supai								
Long Mesa-TK Tank	39.5/ 24.5	130.8	136.8	140.4	145.2	145.6	96	19
TK Tank-Grand Cyn	22.5/ 14.0	125.9	132.0	135.5	140.3	140.7		
Total Length	178.8/111.1							
Avg Path Length (/ 6 paths)	29.8/ 18.5							

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I am an attorney in the Law Offices of Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson & Dickens and that on this 6th day of July, 1992, I caused to be mailed by United States mail postage prepaid, a copy of the foregoing **REPLY COMMENTS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION** to the following:

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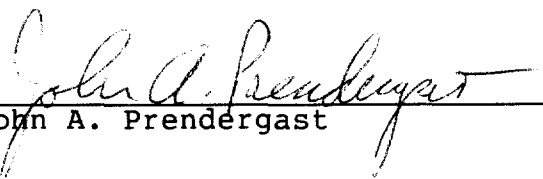
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